

# BIOGRAPHY

## Gail Spence

Alliance Advisor, GDA



Since August 2008, Gail M. Spence has served as a Senior Alliance Advisor in the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Office of Global Development Alliance. In this position, she is responsible for supporting the Agency's alliance building efforts through outreach and support to regional bureaus and 80 USAID Missions. She is also responsible for overseeing the strategic institutionalizing of GDA as a core USAID business model. Ms. Spence has had an extensive career with USAID.

As a seasoned Foreign Service officer, Ms. Spence has served for more than twenty years in five overseas posts and in Washington, D.C. From 2006 to 2008, Ms. Spence served as the Office Chief of the Program Office in the USAID West Africa Mission located in Accra, Ghana. As a senior staff member, Ms. Spence was responsible for overseeing the USAID program worth approximately \$297 million and budget which included coverage to 14 West African countries in conflict mitigation, counterterrorism, health, trade and agriculture, MCC, PEPFAR, Avian Influenza and several Presidential Initiatives.

From 2002-2005, she was the Defacto Deputy Director and Supervisory Program Officer in the USAID Mission in Angola. Ms. Spence was responsible for guiding the Mission in its transition from a post-conflict humanitarian assistance program to a longer-term development program. Ms. Spence also served as the project manager for the Mission's growing private sector development program portfolio. One of Ms. Spence's key career accomplishments was the successful operationalization and management of USAID's public private partnership with Chevron in Angola. At the time, this was the largest (\$20 million) public and private partnership in the history of USAID. This partnership experience eventually contributed to the establishment of a permanent USAID GDA Office.

From 1998-2001, she served as USAID/Zambia's Project Development Officer, Desk Officer for South Africa and Namibia from 1995 to 1998, Chief of the Project Development Unit for USAID/Haiti from 1993 to 1995, Deputy of the Program Officer for USAID/Haiti from 1992-1993, Project Development Officer from 1990 to 1992 for USAID/Haiti, and Assistant Project Development Officer for USAID/Sri Lanka in 1989 to 1990.

Prior to joining USAID, Ms. Spence worked at Peace Corps' Washington, D.C. headquarters. She is also a former Peace Corps Volunteer who served in Cameroon from 1984 to 1985 as a credit union advisor.

Ms. Spence has a working knowledge of French and Portuguese. She is a graduate of American University with a master's degree in International Development and Development Management and a bachelor's in International Studies and Economics. Ms. Spence and her son Jonathan are from New Haven, Connecticut.